WHIRRAKEE

March 2008 Vol. 29 No. 2

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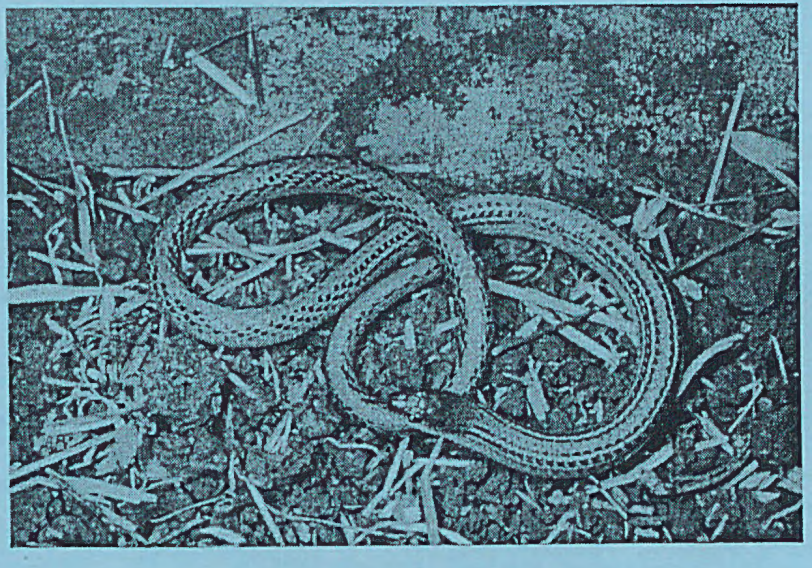

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE BENDIGO FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB

Bendigo Field Naturalists Club Inc.
Address for correspondence: PO Box 396, Bendigo 3552
ISSN 0812-423X

Office Bearers for 2007 - 2008

President	Glenise Moors	Mandurang South Road, Sedgwick	54396254
Senior Vice President	Richard Goonan		0423 418815
Junior Vice President	Matthew Comer		0409 162627
Secretary	Anne Bridley		5449 3479
Minute Secretary	Peter Ellis and Jan Orr		
Treasurer	Stuart Fraser	12 Bambara Close, Bendigo	
Membership Officer	Anne Bridley		5449 3479
Excursion organiser	Richard Goonan		0423 418815
Syllabus organiser	Rod Orr	2 Cockerel Court, Bendigo	5443 5668
	(an assistant's position for the syllabus organiser is still vacant)		
Librarian (t.b.c.)	Diana Collier	31 Milroy Street, Bendigo	5443 0137
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Hall Management	Maurie Lewis (assisted by Bill Holsworth and Kath Thompson)		0407 427179
Whirrakee contact	Sabine Wilkens	82 Somerville Street, Bendigo	5443 2797
		e-mail: s.wilkens@latrobe.edu.au	

Membership of the Bendigo Field Naturalists Club is open to all those interested in Natural History. The subscription rates are: Single $34; Family $40; Concession: Single $28.50; Family $34. *Whirrakee* subscription only is $34.

General meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month. The venue for General meetings is the Golden Square Senior Citizens Building, Old High Street, Golden Square. The invited speaker at general meetings starts at 8:00pm and meetings conclude with supper.
If a workshop is held prior to the meeting, it will be advertised and it usually starts at 7.00pm.
The Annual Meeting is held in September.

Committee meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month at 7:30pm. Members of the Committee are the Office Bearer listed above and the following members: Bob Ruddick, Rod Orr, Jan Orr, Peter Ellis, Ben Goonan, Anthony Sheean, Rob Moors

Excursions are conducted regularly and are advertised on the diary page of the *Whirrakee*. The assembly point for excursions is the Golden Square Senior Citizens Building, unless otherwise specified. In addition to local excursions, campouts are held several times each year, usually coinciding with long weekends or holiday periods.

The Bendigo Field Naturalists Club has one active group that meets regularly (the Fauna Study Group) and other groups that meet at irregular intervals.

Fauna Study Group: meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 7:30pm in the Golden Square Senior Citizens Building.

Chairman: John Burtonclay, Fadersons Lane, Mandurang (5439 5710)
Secretary: Bill Holsworth, 13 Nabilla Crs., Bendigo (5443 4063)
Equipment Officer: Maurie Lewis (0407 427179)

Bird Observers Group: This group has field excursions and the occasional lecture evening. Please consult the *Whirrakee* for details. Special bird observations should be reported to Anne Bridley 5449 3479.
To propose meetings or excursions please contact Kerrie Norris 5447 8017.

Front cover photo?...see page 2.

WHIRRAKEE

Monthly Newsletter of the Bendigo Field Naturalist Club
Vol. 29, No. 2, March 2008
Whirrakee takes its name from the Whirrakee Wattle (*Acacia williamsonii*) which is virtually endemic to the Bendigo region

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Authors are responsible for the accuracy of the information they use and also for any opinions expressed in their articles. Contributions will be included as soon as possible after they are received, although articles received more than one week after the monthly General Meeting will probably be too late for inclusion in the next issue of *Whirrakee*.
Articles in *Whirrakee* may be reproduced, but permission should be obtained from the Bendigo Field Naturalists Club, and acknowledgment should be given to the author and the Club. Some back issues are still available on request.

Editor's Note
Lovers of reptiles are in for a treat for the next few issues. Darren Green is one of Bendigo foremost reptile experts, and although Darren has been unwell over long stretches of last year, and although he lives in far North Queensland, he takes an active interest in Bendigo's Natural History from afar. He has recently sent in lots of 'reptile material'(hoping that all this activity is a sign of recovery), which will be spread out over a number of issues . This will complement a series of articles on turtles published by Darren in the Whirrakee some time ago.
Thanks also to Elaine Mathison on continuing her contribution 'from the mailbag'. The page in this edition should have appeared last month, but I forgot to include it. Let's hope for another beautiful autumn in Bendigo.

Front Page Illustration – Photographer: Darren Green
The front cover shows the two lizards are described in an article on page 4, *Delma impar* (top) and *Delma inornata* (bottom). It is a pity the front cover cannot be in colour – what beautiful lizards.

Short notices

Review of "Indigenous Plants of Bendigo" booklet

by Peter and Shirley Dwyer of Box Hill
editors of *Greenlink News*
(reprinted with permission from February 2008 edition of their newsletter)

The June 2004 edition of *Greenlink News* carried a review of "Indigenous plants of Bendigo (A gardener's guide to growing and protecting native plants)". This booklet was produced by the City of Greater Bendigo and the Bendigo Native Plant Group Inc. During late 2007, this booklet was reprinted in a revised form and, thanks to Frances Cincotta, your editors have their own copy.

The publication has expanded in size by a dozen pages, mainly due to the inclusion of photos for a number of plants that were only described in the first edition. These photos, along with a large number of clearer, revised photographs, greatly improve the publication's use for visual identification. The expansion of plant descriptions, especially in the "special note" for each plant, is a handy addition for gardeners seeking further information on plants they may be considering for use.

At the "business end" of the booklet, a glowing endorsement from Peter Cundall has been added and some of the introductory information has been stated more succinctly without losing its intended message, a welcome update. For those who require a more in-depth background to the Greater Bendigo region, a section on local Geology and Soils has been added.

In summary, the second edition of this publication is a credit to the contributors and the City of Greater Bendigo. For further information or to obtain copies of the publication, contact the City of Greater Bendigo, PO Box 733 Lyttleton Terrace, Bendigo 3552. The phone number is 5434600 and email address is requests@bendigo.vic.gov.au.

If anyone is interested in checking out the work of Greenlink Box Hill you can check out our website at **http://avoca.vicnet.net.au/~greenlnk/**

Upcoming speakers for the general meetings

Elvyne Hogan's talk on Wednesday 12th March will be very interesting. The title of Elvyne's talk is: is: 'Northern Plains Grasslands: Going, or are we Gaining Ground?
See Diary page for a summary.

On April 9, **Adam Muir** from the Department of Sustainability and Environment (Biodiversity section) is talking about 'Recognising threatened species habitat in assessments of native vegetation'.
Adam has supplied a summary of his talk:
Victoria's Native Vegetation Management - A Framework for Action, the Government policy released in 2002 is now firmly entrenched as a decision making tool. It is an incorporated document in the planning system and guides investment priorities for native vegetation protection and enhancement across the landscape. The Framework establishes threatened species habitat as an important criterion in establishing the conservation significance of a patch of native vegetation. But it is only relatively recently that an approach to apply this criterion has become available. This talk will explain the thinking behind the "best and rest" concept and, while highlighting the positive impact this approach can make, will also identify some of the practical and philosophical dilemmas that this throws up. This continues to be a developing area of policy implementation with opportunities for input from community organisations.

Notes on the Legless Lizard *Delma impar* & *Delma inornata*, in Central Victoria

Author: Darren Green

Between 1993 and 1995, roadside reserves were surveyed for reptiles between Joyces Creek and Bridgewater, and Newbridge and Marong, in central Victoria. The study sites typically followed the Loddon River from Joyces Creek, Moolort, Cairn Curran, Baringhup, Eddington, Laanecoorie, Newbridge, to Bridgewater, and farmlands from Newbridge to Marong. Areas specifically targeted were remnant native and introduced grasslands, on basalt plains, where active searching under rocks was conducted. Reptile fauna was scarce in surrounding paddocks, but appeared in greater numbers along roadside reserves. This may be due to the effect of minimal grazing along roadsides.

The Olive Legless Lizard, *Delma inornata*, was the only *Delma* species observed between Moolort, Bridgewater and Marong. However, in the area between Moolort and Joyces Creek, *Delma inornata* and the Striped Legless Lizard, *Delma impar*, were sympatric.

On 12 June 1994 at Rodborough Road (Joyces Creek), eleven *D.impar* were observed under separate basalt rocks in an area of around 50m x 30m. In addition, under one rock (150x200mm) that was buried to a depth of 100mm, eleven egg casings were discovered. These measured 17.75x10.1mm (mean), and were elongate with rounded ends. Approximately 1km east from the above site, one adult and one juvenile *D.impar* along with one empty egg case was observed under the same rock. The egg case matched the eleven previously discovered, and was evidence to suggest they were *D.impar* eggs. Each egg was slit suggesting a 100% hatch rate. "Pin holes" in the cases were also noticed. The eggs were retained and it was later revealed that the empty eggs were also home to two small centipedes, approximately 30mm in length.

On 28 May 1995 at Nicholls Road East (near Tullaroop Reservoir) one *Delma inornata* was observed under a rock. Within one meter, also under a rock, was one *Delma impar* that was poorly striped (i.e. darker stripes replaced by dorsal ground colour). Within a 3m circle from this area the egg remains of what I suspect to be from the Eastern Brown Snake, *Psuedonaja textiles*, were discovered under two separate rocks. Also within this circle, but under other rocks, further egg casings were found. Two assumed to be from *D.inornata*, measured 22x14mm and 24x12mm, and ten from *D.impar*, measuring 18x10mm (mean). Each egg case was slit, again suggesting a 100% hatch rate. About 30m from this site, another *D.impar* was discovered, which had the typical dark stripes. Further to these species, the Spotted Marsh Frog, *Lymnodynastes tasmaniensis*, were abundant in the area.

According to Cogger (2000, p.284), *Delma* species mostly lay two eggs per clutch. Given the evidence presented above, it could be concluded that these observations are a possible record for communal egg laying in the Striped Legless Lizard, *Delma impar*. Furthermore, *D.impar* and *D.inornata* occur sympatrically in some parts of their range. This was also confirmed at another site (near Lake Eppalock) were both *D.impar* and *D.inornata* were observed under the same rock.

Achknowledgements

Dale Gibbons for his expertise, knowledge, and company on some of the trips.

References

Cogger, H.G. (2000) *Reptiles & Amphibians of Australia*, Sixth Edition, Sydney: Reed New Holland.

Predation on *Chelodina longicollis* at Lake Boort, Victoria

Author and Photographer: Darren Green

For the past several years I have been observing some of the semi-aquatic chelid turtles, the Eastern Snake-Necked Turtle (*Chelodina longicollis)* that occur at Lake Boort, Victoria.

Of particular notice here are the amount of dead turtles. It is common to find several dead *C.longicollis* on each visit to the lake, often the turtles are around 200mm carapace length with the flesh removed, or some flesh remaining around the bridge and no limbs present. Usually the shell is not damaged indicating death from other sources apart from vehicles. On, or to each side of the road that runs parallel to the lake in parts, there are usually the remains of turtles whose death occurred from vehicles, obvious due to the nature of the turtle remains.

Death does not go un-noticed in juveniles, indeed, I have seen several dehydrated juvenile remains occurring along the roadside and also quite close to the waters edge. On one occasion I found the shells of 5 juveniles, 3 being at the base of a fence post and 2 on top of separate fence posts, indicating possible predation on hatchlings by birds.

Live turtles (adult and sub-adult) are also damaged in some form, most noticeably are the cracked or broken shells (now healed over). On close inspection, it is common to see eyes missing, limbs missing or pieces of flesh removed from the limbs, appearing as though the flesh had been "gnawed" away.

The major contributing factor to the amount of obvious deaths at Boort come from vehicles. Not so noticeable are the washed up turtle shells around the lake or the remains found in creeks. It is at this 'creek' or 'channel' that a colony of water rats live, and it is here I find the damaged turtles mentioned above.

I have consistently found dead turtle remains, primarily the shell, in this channel. Occasionally the live turtles have limbs missing or the flesh removed leaving exposed bones, there are many burrows in the embankment and trails leading to the water, indicating the possibility of water rats preying on the hibernating turtles. The Lake is close to the main road leading into Boort, often the result of road kills, and many individuals with scarred shells, hence the local government have erected 'tortoises crossing' signs.

Interested in Wildlife Rescue?

The Far North Queensland Wildlife Rescue has just uploaded their new website. Have a look around, and maybe download the newsletters.
Spread the word.
http://www.fnqwildliferescue.org.au/index.html
Regards Darren

From the Mailbag
Author: Elaine Mathison

Each month the club receives a number of newsletters and magazines: some by subscription and some in exchange for Whirrakee. These are available from the club library.

* * * * * * *

PARKWATCH(VNPA)
December 2007

"The National Reserve System": Matt Ruchel, VNPA Director, writes that "increasing funding for parks and reserves is a critical investment".

"Catchment report card deeply disturbing..." details the problems described in the five-yearly report released by the Victorian Catchment Management Council in November.

"Love it and lose it?" outlines the risk in depending on nature-based tourism to fund parks and reserves. In many cases income from such tourism is not returned to the parks at all.

"Hot on top" details the challenges to be faced in the Bogong High Plains as climate change has its effect.

"Mount Samaria State Park" covers 7600 hectares between Mansfield and Benalla. It has two impressive gorges with waterfalls and three broad vegetation types.

"WA's Bibbulmun Track" stretches almost 1000 kilometres from Kalamunda, south of Perth, to Albany on the south coast. It winds through 22 national parks and other reserves, and several rural communities.

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THE BIRD OBSERVER(BOCA)
October 2007

- a family of sparrowhawks - it all started with a tragedy: observations on a property near Mildura over a period of five months
- Kenya and Tanzania: a two week safari produced some outstanding bird watching opportunities
- Desert Blooming: an exploration of the Channel country in western Queensland following good rains
- Flight Path to Peril: continuing the story of the migratory bird reserve in Eilat, Israel, which is under threat from greedy and threatening developers

* * * * * * *

Also received recently:

*Geelong Naturalist (Geelong FNC)

*The Ballarat Naturalist (Ballarat FNC)

*Castlemaine Naturalist (C'Maine FNC)

*Sun-Nat (Sunraysia FNC)

*Field Nats News (FNCV)

* * * * * * *

Bendigo Field Naturalists Club
Notes from the February General Meeting

Author: Jan Orr

Reports
Sorry Day (13.2.2008)
Diana Collier requested that the BFNC endorse the Prime Minister's formal apology on behalf of the people of Australia, to all Aboriginal Australians and Torres Strait Islanders for past actions that resulted in the suffering and hardship endured by the 'stolen generations'. The BFNC also acknowledges that the club is on Jaara Jaara land where the Dja Dja Wurung have lived for countless generations.

Flame Robin Hunt - Alpine National Park and adjacent forests (29.1.2008 - 7.2.2008)
Anne Bridley reported that:
- the wild fires in the summer of 2007 have had an enormous impact on the forests visited in many areas, especially the snow gums on the Howitt Plains, where many were killed;
- there was some salvage logging of Alpine Ash happening below Mt Skene;
- there was enormous grass regrowth throughout the burnt high plains, prompting "Where are the cattle?" : "Hikers don't eat grass" comments in a visitor book at Howitt Hut;
- at Talbotville, the *Bursaria spinosa* was in full flower and was attracting many butterflies, moths and, a large number of blue-winged flies;
- Painted Button-quail were seen on the Jamieson-Heyfield Rd. near Mt Skene.

Glenise Moors added:
- Flame Robins were found in many places but they were always in unburnt areas or burnt areas that were close to unburnt vegetation;
- they were most commonly found on the roadsides. On the Howitt Plains the Flame Robins were busily feeding on great number of caterpillars that were crossing the road. These caterpillars reminded the party of 'army-worms';
- all the Flame Robins were unbanded;
- at the abandoned township of Talbotville there were several old fruit trees. Satin Bowerbirds were feeding their fledglings on pears. King Parrots and Pied Currawongs were also feasting on the fruit and also on the fruit of the old Tree-violet bushes that had managed to survive all the human disturbance.

Jan Orr mentioned that the extensive damage caused to the Licola area by the floods, which followed the fires, is still very apparent. The Wellington River is still carrying large amounts of pink clay silt, which looks like 'Potters Slip'. The McCalister River is not much better and must be adversely affecting the water quality in the Glenmaggie Reservoir.

Notes and Observations
Over summer, Maurie Lewis was able to observe 3 colonies of Blue-faced Honeyeaters, which nested and raised young at his house in Kangaroo Flat. He did give them some food every 3rd day but he didn't want them to become too dependent on the handout. He was surprised to notice that the juveniles appeared larger than the adult birds. He also had Butcherbirds raise 1 chick and he was impressed by how well the juvenile was camouflaged with its brown coloration.

Ian Higgins hasn't heard or seen a Butcherbird in Castlemaine for several years. Many members reported their sightings of the bird around Bendigo - the meeting concluded that the bird is extending its range throughout the Greater Bendigo outer urban area.

Matthew Comer, on 10.2.2008 at Kangaroo Flat, found a weak juvenile Collared Sparrowhawk. It was in such poor condition he contacted WRIN who took the bird into care. A colleague at Goldfields Revegetation brought a bird pellet she found near her home at Spring Gully. Close investigation revealed insect skeletons and numerous black seeds. They have been able to get them to germinate and their seedling growth indicates that they

are possibly a succulent species such as pig-face (whether they are native or a garden species is yet to be discovered).

Rob Watkins and Cynthia saw many Flame Robins raising young at Mt Hotham and Dinner Plain in January 2008, unfortunately, none had bands and were therefore not Sedgwick birds. On the same trip, in a swampy area at Dinner Plain, they saw a number of Japanese Snipe. Rob and Cynthia recently visited a friend who lives near Echuca and has a colony of Squirrel Gliders living on his property. A pair of Sooty Owls have recently arrived thus presenting him with a dilemma - a rare marsupial being eaten by a rare bird.

Rod Orr is puzzled by a eucalypt growing in Jane Cleary's garden. It was labelled *Eucalyptus platypus* when she bought it however it has bright red flowers and this species is described, in the reference books by Stan Kelly and Booker and Kleinig, as having white or cream flowers. *Eucalyptus nutans* (Red-flowered Moort), a similar species, is described as having red flowers.

Glenise Moors has found 2 more Clover Glycine plants in the Sedgwick water reserve section of the Greater Bendigo National Park. Brown Treecreepers have nested in in her nesting boxes for the first time this nesting season. Previously the boxes were occupied by Ringtailed Possums, however, for some reason this year they have not been around and the Brown Treecreepers have been quick to make use of the boxes. The birds used a lot of fur for their nesting material and even included a sloughed snake skin.

Nathan Gregory recently visited the Muckleford Forest and saw White-browed scrub wrens. Glenise Moors noted that this species has been absent from the Sedgwick forest and has only recently returned.

Jan Orr reported seeing 2 batches of 7 or 8 Grey Teal ducklings at Kennington Reservoir being closely tended by both parents. Also, she saw 3 slightly older Chestnut Teal Ducklings, again being closely escorted by both parents. The male had lost a lot of his brilliant breeding colour. Bev Culvenor also saw these ducks and in addition saw a Nankeen Night Heron.

Best Practice Native Vegetation Management

A web resource presented by Ian Higgins

Author: Sabine Wilkens

Ian Higgins spoke at the first general meeting about a very interesting project he has been involved with. It is a website dedicated to regional native vegetation management, and on the night, Ian introduced some of the features and resources this website has to offer. 'Best Practice' in vegetation management is not using some tried and true recipe for every situation. Each situation will demand an individual approach and this website will help assemble the important factors that will give a revegetation venture the best chance of succeeding.

This is the place to have a look:
http://mail.nccma.vic.gov.au/nvbmp/
Once you have picked your catchment, you can choose from three links that form the core of 'best practice management':
Plantscapes (types of vegetation or EVCs)
Plant Species (types of plants)
Tools and Techniques (ways to manage vegetation and plants)

You can wander amongst these links, looking at plant lists, revegetation options, photos and information about plants as well as learning about how to assess your land.
On the front page, there are also other useful links to personalise the revegetation project on your own land.

Ian is very interested in feedback from users of this site, so please contact him at the NCCMA if you have any comments.

A Strange Gift from a Stranger
by Frances Cincotta, December 2007

My seed collecting today was unusual in two ways. 'Twas cool and slightly raining when usually it is hot and dry, and normally I don't see anybody.

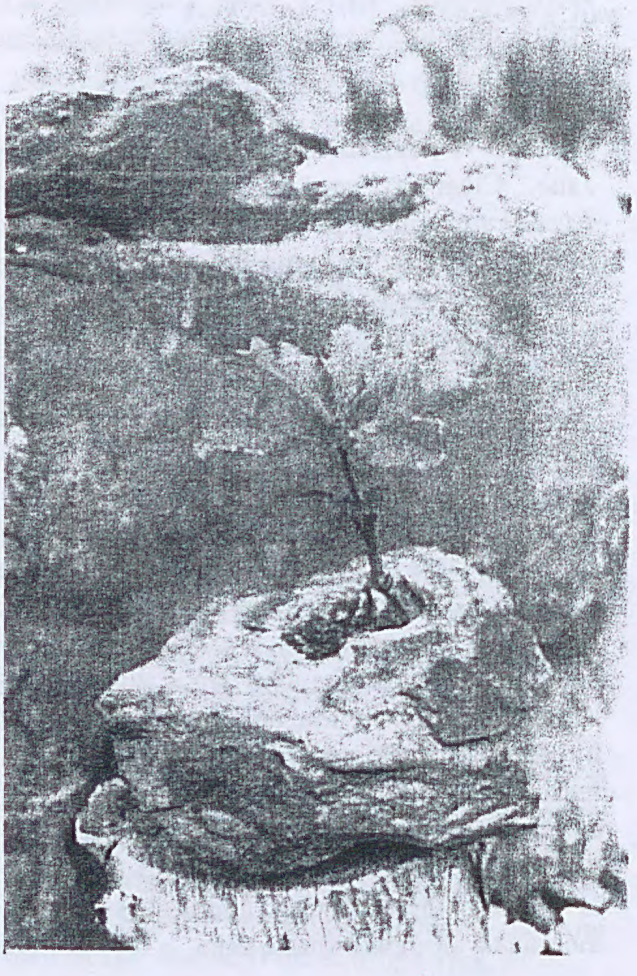
A stranger stopped his vehicle on the narrow bush track south of Guildford. I explained that I was collecting seeds and cuttings from the roadside, for which I had permission and had paid royalties. The man suggested that the Matted Bush pea is easier to grow from seed than from cuttings. I was surprised to meet someone else who had bothered to try to propagate local native species! I said I had been successful with both methods.

He asked if I had seen the beautiful pink orchid back the track a bit. How could you miss the startling Hyacinth Orchid? It is so different to the humble ground orchids that come out in autumn, winter and spring. This summer-flowering species has a sturdy purplish stem to a meter tall bearing many pink, spotted flowers. Another vehicle came along and the stranger had to get moving so he drove off. I thought that was that.

I returned to my reverie, taking soggy red-brown pods from the Mitchell's Wattle, which was also bearing flowers. I reflected on how different species of wattles flower at various times of the year but nearly all come into seed at around the same time, mid-December. So this particular feather-leaved, knee-high species must take a whole 12 months from flowering to seeding. I felt extremely lucky to find seed pods on the Pink Bells too, and to have found a livelihood that gets me out into the bush sometimes.

Next thing the stranger re-appeared, on foot this time. It turned out he lived nearby. He was bearing a strange gift - an oak tree growing in a beautiful brown-and-orange rock the size of a small echidna, but surprisingly heavy as I took it from him. The hole in the rock the seedling was growing in was only as big as my thumb! I asked how old the seedling was - four years. He said his kids have all grown up and didn't need him any more so he was selling up his land to travel around Australia. I guess he is shedding possessions.

I have never been attracted to the idea of bonsai, or oak trees, but I must admit it is a beautiful thing. I will treasure it if only for the pleasure of the memory of someone willing to give a gift (that took four years of tending) to a total stranger.



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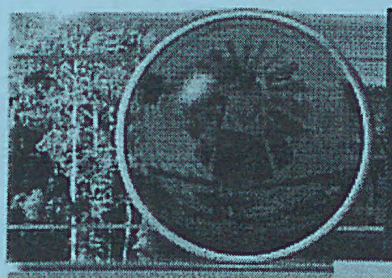
Frances Cincotta has operated her nursery, Newstead Natives at 4 Palmerston Street Newstead, for 9 years. She specialises in plants indigenous to the Shire of Mount Alexander. Frances can be contacted on 5476 2691 or natives@newstead.vicmail.net Please note the nursery is only open by appointment.



The Ecological Challenge of Stream Restoration

Professor Sam Lake
Monash University

- **Date:**
  7th March 2008
- **Venue:**
  F301,
  University of Ballarat,
  Mt. Helen.
- **Time:**
  12:00pm to 1:30pm
- **Cost:**
  Free

Light lunch will be provided

Please RSVP on or before
3rd March 2008

For more details contact
Dr. S. K. Florentine
Phone: 03 5327 9231
Fax: 03 5327 9240
Email:
s.florentine@ballarat.edu.au

Summary of the Talk

It is very evident from state and national audits that many of our flowing waters in settled areas are in poor to very poor condition. Streams have been degraded by habitat loss (both aquatic and riparian), water extraction, loss of connectivity (longitudinal and lateral), loss of refugia, lowering of water quality and by invasion by exotic species. Such overall degradation has exacerbated the effects of natural disturbances such as drought. To date, stream restoration has been fragmentary, short-term and not rigorously planned and monitored. The challenge is to effectively restore streams to an "ecologically sustainable" condition. Projects exemplifying the difficulties of stream restoration will be outlined. With climate change now evident, there is a need to plan both reactive and, especially, proactive restoration to allow stream systems to contend with future changes.

Background

Professor P.S. (Sam) Lake holds a Personal Chair in Ecology at Monash University. Initially, his research work was on freshwater pollution and crustacean neurobiology. Subsequently he investigated biodiversity patterns in streams, both perennial and intermittent, and the factors that influenced community structure. This has progressed to studies on the roles that natural disturbances, in particular flood and drought, have in shaping stream communities. More recently, the challenge of the ecological restoration of streams and their riparian zones has been the focus of his research effort, along with an ongoing study of the effects of drought on aquatic ecosystems. He has published ~180 papers and book chapters and co-authored 4 books and has served on a number of committees concerned with freshwater biodiversity and restoration.

Diary

The General, Bird Observers Group and Fauna Study Group meetings are held at the Golden Square Senior Citizens Building, Old High Street, Golden Square, unless otherwise indicated.

General Meetings

Wednesday, March 12 **7.30pm**
Elvyne Hogan, Trust for Nature Regional Manager (North Central) will talk about: 'Northern Plains Grasslands: Going or are we Gaining Ground?'
Trust for Nature, Department of Sustainability and Environment and others have been targeting Northern Plains grasslands for protection over the last 10 to 15 years. There have been some exciting times as well as frustrating and many interesting characters involved. Elvyne will give a brief history of what has been happening and how Grasslands have fared over this time as well as a short update on TfN activities.

Wednesday, April 9 **7.30pm**
Adam Muir (Department of Sustainability and Environment will talk about 'Recognising threatened species habitat in assessments of native vegetation'. See page 3 for a summary.

Excursions

Contact Richard Goonan if you have any comments, questions or ideas for excursions in 2008 (ph 0423418815).

Fauna Group

This group meets (in the clubrooms) on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm.

Wednesday, March 26 **7.30pm**
Topic for discussion to be determined.

Regular Fauna Excursions

Every Friday morning starting at around 9 to 9:30, the Fauna Group inspects nest boxes in the Spring Gully area. The excursions are led by Maurie Lewis, 16 Vains St. Golden Square. Phone 0407 427 179 or 5442 1813. Phone Maurie to confirm exact departure times and location. If you don't phone but go directly to Maurie's house and find nobody at the house between 9 and 9:30 then the excursion is not on.

Wildlife Rescue & Information Network Inc.

W.R.I.N. is an organisation dedicated to the care of orphaned, sick or injured native animals. It is fully endorsed by the Dept of Sustainability and Environment.
Please call our Emergency Number for Help for Fauna in Need. Phone: 0419 356433.

SEANA Autumn campout 7 - 10 Mar 2008 Naracoorte Caves NP – 1st Notice

Attractions include Caves, rare fossils, viewing southern bent-winged bat wintering colony plus botany, bird and geology tours.
Registration and deposit of $30 to be paid by 20 September.
Total cost probably under $125 includes 3 catered dinners & caves guides.

Australian Naturalists Network (ANN) Get-together 10-18 May 2008

Mary River Park, Northern Territory.
Expression of interest & deposit of $200 was due to NTFNC by 1/10/07.
Accommodation at Mary River Park was to be booked directly by end of October 07.
The **second notice** has been received. This includes an update on accommodation availability at Mary River Park (cabins are essentially full) plus lists of tour operators and natural history references.
Anne Bridley (54493479) has further details